

REMARKS

Claims 1-54 and 56-59 are pending and stand rejected. All remaining claims 1-54 and 56-59 are believed to be allowable over the references cited by the Examiner as discussed below. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for the present application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 14-16, 26, 27, 33, 40, 45, 56-58, 60, 61, 66, 70, 71, 75 and 76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endick et al. (USPN 5,339,360) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art. Applicants respectfully disagree and argue that Endick not only fails to disclose or suggest the invention as claimed but actually teaches away from the claimed invention.

Independent claim 1 generally recites a telecommunication system that includes a telephone headset, an accessory for the telephone headset, and a *headset adapter* coupled to both the headset and the headset accessory that *directly* controls the accessory for the telephone headset. Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the headset adapter *directly* controls or monitors the accessory for the headset by reciting that the headset adapter controls or monitors the headset accessory *independently* of a base telephone to which the headset adapter is configured to be coupled.

Endick, on the other hand, expressly teaches away from the invention of independent claim 1. Specifically, Endick discloses a digital telephone that synchronizes the cadence of visual indicators on the base digital telephone and the attached auxiliary devices. To achieve such synchronization, Endick's microcontroller 118 controls the cadence of the LEDs on both the base telephone and the attached devices. Endick's express and only objective is "to have individual indicators operating at the same cadence across all units to be in synchronization (flash the same time as well as the associate rate)" to give the user a perception of a single system image. (Col. 1, lines 55-60) Endick *requires* the use of a *central* microcontroller and interface combination for the base telephone and attached devices.

Modifying Endick's telephone, as the Examiner suggests, by providing a headset adapter that *directly* controls or monitors an accessory for the headset *independent* of the base telephone would be contrary to the sole synchronization objective of Endick. Therefore, Endick not only fails to disclose or suggest the headset accessory be directly controlled or monitored by the

headset adapter independent of the base telephone but Endick actually teaches away from a system as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner's reading of Endick is overly broad and ignores the express goal of synchronizing the LEDs on the base telephone and the accessories.

For example, the Examiner contends that Endick's microcontroller 118 is interpreted to be the headset adapter in claim 1. Even so, Endick's microcontroller 118 cannot read on the limitation of claim 1 specifying that the headset adapter controls or monitors the headset accessory *independently* of the base telephone precisely because Endick's microcontroller 118 necessarily controls the LEDs on *both* the base telephone and the attached devices in order to provide the synchronization it seeks to provide. Sharing a microcontroller 118 to facilitate the LED synchronization on the base telephone and the attached devices is in direct conflict with control of the attached devices independent of the base telephone.

Endick illustrates in FIG. 11 how the base telephone issues a synchronization message while operating its cadence state machine. The base telephone's state machine 119 is formed by instructions in the base microcontroller 118. (Col. 9, line 67-col. 10, line 3). The base telephone controls its LEDs in accordance with the state indicated by the state machine 119. (Col. 10, lines 24-26).

Similarly, Endick illustrates in FIG. 12 how the attached device (such as the extended keyboard or DSS 902) receives a synchronization message from the microcontroller as issued by the base telephone and synchronizes with the base digital telephone by operating its cadence state machine. As is evident, the synchronization message from the microcontroller controls *both* the base telephone and the attached devices in order for synchronization to occur. Thus, the microcontroller cannot control the base telephone and the attached devices independently of each other.

The Examiner further contends that "Endick teaches that the microcontroller's firmware is segmented into option firmware and telephone firmware where the telephone firmware controls the telephone and the option firmware, as broadly defined, controls the options since the option firmware distributes messages to the options." (page 2 of the office action). However, it is only a *logical* separation Endick mentions to illustrate that the protocol used by the

microcontroller 118 to communicate with the base telephone ~~on the one hand and the attached devices on the other hand~~ may be different. (Col. 6, lines 20-27 and more specifically, lines 25-27).

Applicants further submit that Endick also fails to disclose or suggest that a headset accessory be controlled or monitored by a *headset adapter* much less one that *directly* controls or monitors the headset accessory *independent* of the base telephone. Rather, Endick provides a *central* controller that controls all of the telephone's functions. Endick specifically and expressly states that "the microcontroller 118 comprises a conventional microprocessor which controls all the telephone's function." (Col. 3, lines 28-30; emphasis added).

Moreover, Endick's option modules 104 are auxiliary devices *for the base telephone*. Furthermore, Endick does not disclose nor suggest a headset adapter that separately controls or monitors headset accessories independent from a base telephone to which the headset corresponds. In other words, Endick only discloses a *central controller* for the base telephone that controls *all* accessories associated with the base telephone.

Independent claim 15 similarly recites an adapter base for a telecommunications headset coupled to an accessory for the headset; independent claim 26 recites a headset accessories interface bus coupled to a headset accessory; independent claim 33 recites an interface bus for a headset adapter and a headset accessory; independent claim 40 recites a method using a headset adapter base and an interface bus; independent claim 56 recites a communications protocol for a headset accessories interface bus; independent claim 66 recites a combination having a headset adapter and a communications protocol; independent claim 70 recites a headset adapter base for testing a headset accessory; and independent claim 75 recites a method for testing a headset accessory using a headset adapter. With regard to these independent claims, Endick similarly fails to disclose the elements relating to the headset accessory and headset adapter as discussed above.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 15, 26, 33, 40, 56, 66, 70, and 75 as well as claims dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Combination of Endick with Secondary References

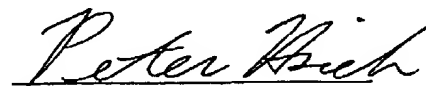
The deficiencies of Endick are not overcome with the addition of secondary references. In particular, claims 4-13, 17-25, 28-32, 34-39, 41-44, 46-54, 59, 62-65, 67-69, 72-74, and 77-79 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endick in view of Yamaguchi, King, Miesterfeld, Waechter, Jones, Yamada, and/or Tanaka. However, these claims are believed to be allowable at least for the similar reasons as set forth above with regard to Endick. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-13, 17-25, 28-32, 34-39, 41-44, 46-54, 59, 62-65, 67-69, 72-74, and 77-79 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter accompanying this document is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136 and/or any other relief is required, Applicant hereby petitions for any required relief including Extensions of Time and/or any other relief and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-2315 (Order No. 01-3876).

Respectfully submitted,



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